

**New Hampshire Children's Authors and Illustrators**  
**Available for School/Library Presentations**

**RICK AGRAN**

PO Box 245  
Plymouth, NH 03264  
603-536-9050  
[semidemiaver@gmail.com](mailto:semidemiaver@gmail.com)  
Author

Description: Rick Agran works with the NH Humanities Council and the NH State Council on the Arts to lead book discussions for "What is NH Reading?" and as a poet in the schools in the Arts in Education program. He will also do author talks, poetry reading and writing.

Audience: pre-school to adult

Length: from one hour to month-long residency

Fee: negotiable

**ROBERTA BAKER**

376 Sanborn Road  
Tilton, NH 03276  
603-286-4051  
[robaker@fcgnetworks.net](mailto:robaker@fcgnetworks.net)  
Author

\*Please note: phone is best way to contact Author

Description: In her program, the author covers the stages of writing, illustrating, editing and publishing a picture book from idea through final product, and includes time for questions and answers. Workshops get children started on a writing/illustrating project that they can finish at home or at the library.

Audience: K- grade 4

Length: 45 minutes - hour

Fee: \$150-\$200, depending on travel time

**MAREK BENNETT**

93 Bennett Road  
Henniker, NH 03242  
603-428-7049  
[marek@marekbennett.com](mailto:marek@marekbennett.com)  
[www.marekbennett.com](http://www.marekbennett.com)  
Comics creator, illustrator, educator

Description: Learn the basics of creating original comics, from character design to panel sequencing, with master teacher Marek Bennett. Marek presents his own work, and leads the group in dramatic readings of comics to explore the tricks and techniques that hook

readers and bring your stories to life. Public readings can include Marek's current work, and/or the work of students in the workshop.

Audience: Ages 7 and up

Length: 1-6 hours (variable, with public presentation of group's artwork)

Fee: \$200-\$300/day; \$150 for single reading/presentation

**JULIE BRILLHART**

12 Perry Avenue

Concord, NH 03301

603-225-4776

[juliebrillhart@yahoo.com](mailto:juliebrillhart@yahoo.com)

Author and Illustrator

Description: The author reads her latest book, describes how she writes and illustrates a book, takes questions, and shows original illustrations.

Audience: K- grade 2

Length: 20-30 minutes

Fee: \$75/classroom

**MARYANN COCCA-LEFFLER**

14 Holt Road

Amherst, NH 03031

603-672-8991

[mcleffler@aol.com](mailto:mcleffler@aol.com)

[www.maryanncoccaleffler.com](http://www.maryanncoccaleffler.com)

Author and Illustrator

Description: The presentation is based on the theme of the author-illustrator's most recent book. The powerpoint slideshow both excites and educates, inspiring the audience to create their own art and stories. Through the presentation "The Story Behind the Story," the author-illustrator shows how a book is developed from concept to finished book. She also shares her storyboards, sketches and paintings and she makes a drawing for the library/school to keep. The presentation ends with a question-answer period.

Audience: Any age

Length: Please contact presenter

Fee: \$1,000/day for three sessions

**TABITHA JEAN D'AGATA**

25 Alice Avenue

Hooksett, NH 03106

603-647-9993

[tabadoo@aol.com](mailto:tabadoo@aol.com)

[www.thesavvyclick.com/TJean.htm](http://www.thesavvyclick.com/TJean.htm)

Author

Description: The following workshops are available: A Story-Planning Event; Release the Muse! and A Wordy Recipe! Please see website for more details!

Audience: K-grades 8; mixed ages

Length: tailored to meet the needs of libraries and schools

Fee: Negotiable

**CHRIS DEMAREST**

Po Box 58

Meriden, NH 03770

603-469-3095

[www.demarestdraws.com](http://www.demarestdraws.com)

Author and Illustrator

Description: The powerpoint presentation takes the audience through real life research and subsequent art as it relates to his books (such as *Hurricane Hunters*). The author also provides various equipment for hands-on discussion.

Audience: Ages 7 and up

Length: 50 minutes. (up to four presentations/day)

Fee: \$900/day; \$500 half-day

**MURIEL L. DUBOIS**

7 Colby Ct. Box 156

Bedford, NH 03110

603-472-8741

[Apprenticeshpbks@aol.com](mailto:Apprenticeshpbks@aol.com)

[www.murieldubois.com/](http://www.murieldubois.com/)

Author

Description: The author's books have a strong focus on New Hampshire history. Mrs. Dubois will do up to three one-hour presentations of any of the following topics per day: 1)The Life of Sarah Hale; 2) Abenaki Captive: How a Picture Book Became a Novel; 3) What Do You Mean I have to Write it Again? A Whiner Learns to Revise; and 4)Pajamas, Tea, Dogs, and Deadlines: The Writing Life. Each talk is presented either as a Power Point or overhead program with some audience participation. See website for more details.

Audience: Grades 3 and up. Groups should be about 50 people--2 to 3 classrooms per session.

Length: 45 minutes to one hour

Fee: \$150 per session

**DAVID ELLIOTT**

228 Kearsage Mountain Road

Warner, NH 03278

603-456-2714

[delliott@conket.com](mailto:delliott@conket.com)

[www.davidelliottbooks.com](http://www.davidelliottbooks.com)

Author

Description: The author covers a variety of topics such as writing work and revision; the collaborative process of book making; and writing exercises. Please visit website for more details.

Audience: varies

Length: 50 minutes

Fee: Contact school visit coordinator; see website for information.

**JENNIFER ERICSSON**

79 Centre Street

Concord, NH 03301

603-226-7256

[JAERICSSON@aol.com](mailto:JAERICSSON@aol.com)

Author

Description: Authors are Real People--Geared for young children and their parents, this 45 minute program uses a storytime format to inform and entertain.

Personal information is shared, several of the author's picture books are read, and all questions are answered.

From Idea to the Printed Page--This one-hour workshop for elementary school-aged children (grades 1-4) explains the process of how an idea in your head becomes a book in your hands. The workshop includes a group writing activity and time for questions.

Audience: See above

Length: See above

Fee: library programs: \$125 each

elementary school visits: \$500/day. (Author will do up to four one-hour presentations of "From Idea to the Printed Page" in one day for grades 1 & up. Kindergarten is usually a much shorter and more casual program with Author reading a couple of her picture books to individual classes.)

**RALPH FLETCHER**

PO Box 855

Durham, NH 03824

[fletcher17@earthlink.net](mailto:fletcher17@earthlink.net)

[www.ralphfletcher.com](http://www.ralphfletcher.com)

Author

Description: The author does three or four presentations, focusing on his writing process, especially the writer's notebook. He shows the audience how he rewrites his work. The author also reads from his works and does some storytelling, ending with a question and answer session.

Audience: K-grade 5; middle school

Length: 40 minutes; shorter for K-1

Fee: \$1,500/day

**MARIE HARRIS**

PO Box 203

Barrington, NH 03825

603-664-7654

[marie@marieharris.com](mailto:marie@marieharris.com)

[www.marieharris.com](http://www.marieharris.com)

Author

Description: The author's school programs involve participatory writing workshops and interactive discussion centering on her recent books: *G is for Granite* and *Primary Numbers*. While these books—a NH alphabet book and NH number book—are written, respectively, with grades 3-5 and grades K-2 in mind, there are many discussion points suitable for older students (e.g. the making of a book; research; poetry and prose styles, etc.)

Audience: varies

Length: one hour

Fee: \$750/day (four sessions); some negotiation possible.

**KAREN BUSCH HOLMAN**

PO Box 155

Andover, NH 03231

603-735-4207

[jholman@tds.net](mailto:jholman@tds.net)

[galleryatthepoplars.com](http://galleryatthepoplars.com)

Illustrator

Description: The program is an art lesson teaching children how a book is illustrated. The class first writes their own class poem, which is done several weeks before the illustrator's visit. Then, the illustrator typesets and illustrates the poem. During the visit, the illustrator walks through the sketching phase, teaching the class little tricks to help them draw better. The illustrator provides

pastels and works with the class to color their illustrations. Each child leaves with his/her own drawing.

Audience: K-grade 5

Length: 55-75 minutes

Fee: \$675 (includes the \$30 lab fee for pastels)

**MEG KEARNEY**

65 Davis Village Road,  
New Ipswich, NH 03071  
603-878-0531

[megkearney@myfairpoint.net](mailto:megkearney@myfairpoint.net)

[www.megkearney.com](http://www.megkearney.com)

Description: Using her young-adult novels in verse as a launching point, Meg Kearney talks with students about how and why poems are structured, and why they are written at all. She also discusses the revision process, and gets students writing their own verse. Meg's novels in verse come with a teacher's guide.

Audience: Grades 6 and up

Length: up to three, 50-minute sessions

Fee: \$300 – \$600 depending on number of sessions and travel time

**ERICK INGRAHAM**

PO Box 321  
Jaffrey, NH 03452  
603-532-5678

[ingraham@erickingraham.com](mailto:ingraham@erickingraham.com)

[www.erickingraham.com](http://www.erickingraham.com)

Illustrator

Description: The illustrator discusses how he starts a book and goes over all of the steps to illustrating the book. He offers interesting behind-the-scenes stories and shows things that few people get to see, like translated versions of his books. He also presents a slide show that has a vocal soundtrack with music and sound effects. After answering questions, the Illustrator presents the grand finale: the live impromptu drawing session. This is an entertaining demonstration of how he gets early story ideas onto paper quickly. See website for samples.

Audience: ages 6-11

Length: 50 minutes

Fee: libraries—one talk: \$350 plus travel

elementary schools: two talk minimum: \$650 plus travel. For three talks in one day, add \$200; for a fourth talk, add \$100.

**MARTY KELLEY**

7 East Lull Place  
New Boston, NH 03070  
603-487-9918  
[martykelley@hotmail.com](mailto:martykelley@hotmail.com)  
Author and Illustrator

Description: This is a fun, high-energy program that explains the writing and illustrating process. The presentation includes lots of samples of work, audience participation and drawing demonstrations.

Audience: Grades 1-6

Length: one hour

Fee: \$750 for three one-hour programs; \$250 for one program

**TRUE KELLEY**

79 Old Denny Hill Road  
Warner, NH 03278  
603-456-2190  
[true@conknet.com](mailto:true@conknet.com)  
Author and Illustrator

Description: One program focuses on how books are made and how words and pictures work together. With audience input, the Author writes a story. The other program explores drawing and demonstrates cartooning tricks. The audience then helps to make an illustration that tells a story.

Audience: K-grade 6

Length: 20 minutes to one hour

Fee: \$800/day; \$300 for single presentation; travel expenses negotiable

**BETH KROMMES**

310 Old Street Rd.  
Peterborough, NH 03458  
603-924-8790  
[beth@bethkrommes.com](mailto:beth@bethkrommes.com)  
[www.bethkrommes.com](http://www.bethkrommes.com)  
Illustrator

Description: The format of the presentation will include: how I found my path as an artist, the process of illustrating a book from start to finish, a demonstration, and question-and-answer time. I love to gear my talk around a particular book I've illustrated that might work best with a subject area of special interest to the class. Often I leave behind a project for the class to complete with the teacher.

Audience: any age

Length: 30 to 60 minutes depending on age

Fee: \$1,000/day for four presentations in a school

**SY MONTGOMERY**

115 Antrim Road  
Box 127  
Hancock, NH 03449  
[sy@millmoss.mv.com](mailto:sy@millmoss.mv.com)  
Authorwire.com  
Author

Description: The author does slide show lectures suitable for assemblies as well as classroom visits. The slide show topics include the following: life as an explorer-author; Encantado: exploring the life of the pink Amazon dolphin; 18,000 slithering snakes and how to study them; the tarantula scientist; search for the golden moon bear; and spell of the tiger.

Audience: Grades 4-8  
Length: 45 minutes  
Fee: \$1,500 (negotiable)

**DENISE ORTAKALES**

711 Shore Drive  
Laconia, NH 03246  
603-528-2168  
[denise@ortakales.com](mailto:denise@ortakales.com)  
[www.deniseortakales.com](http://www.deniseortakales.com)  
Author and Illustrator

Description: The program covers topics such as the process of writing and illustrating children's books, where ideas come from, journaling, and what it is like to be a professional illustrator.

Audience: All  
Length: 30-60 minutes, depending on age and topic.  
Fee: \$225 for one library session; \$500 for four school sessions.

**MARY LYN RAY**

104 Frazier Brook Road  
So. Danbury, NH 03230  
603-768-3266 (for use by librarians or teachers only)  
Author

Description: When the author visits a school, she wants to invite conversations about the mystery of story and the mysteries of writing. The author reads to and talks with the audience. The central things the author talks about are where stories come from, how they find a form, how a manuscript becomes a picture book, how it may feel to look at a piece of paper and not know what to write. The author will typically tell some of the stories she's written (or



may be writing), something of how she writes and why she writes. She also wants to hear questions from the audience.

Audience: K-grade 5; middle school; high school; adult

Length: 30 minutes for Kindergarten groups; 45 minutes to one hour for other groups

Fee: \$650 for a day (three groups)

### **STEVE SCHUCH**

Night Heron Music

267 Center Road

Hillsborough, NH 03244

603-464-4321

[info@nightheron.com](mailto:info@nightheron.com)

[www.NightHeron.com](http://www.NightHeron.com)

Author, Musician and Storyteller

Description: Options include *The Author's Story*; *A Symphony of Whales*; *Songs & Tales Around the World*; *Music & Tales of Ireland*; *Parent/Educator Workshops*; *Artist Residencies*. See web site for full descriptions of these and other programs.

Audience: Ages 5 and up; see web site for further information.

Length: varies

Fee: Varies; contact author for specifics. Block booking and grants available.

### **JOHN STADLER**

264 River Road

Lyme, NH 03768

[email@johnstadler.com](mailto:email@johnstadler.com)

[johnstadler.com](http://johnstadler.com)

Author and Illustrator

Description: John Stadler's presentations are known for their humorous, educational and interactive qualities. Generally, each presentation consists of up to five parts:

1. John draws some characters from his books. (An easel with copious amounts of large paper and markers should be supplied for the visit.)
2. John shows how picture books and pop-up books are made from start to finish (idea, mock-up, printing and book form).
3. John demonstrates how to come up with ideas, actively involving the children in the process and drawing out their ideas on the spot.
4. If time and location permit, there can be a slide presentation.
5. Question and answers.

Audience: All ages, mostly K-grade 4

Length: 45 minutes

Fee: \$250-\$1300, depending on program and distance